



Washington Sprinkler Coalition Membership List

(08-12-09)

The Washington Sprinkler Coalition is dedicated to promoting home fire sprinklers. This voluntary coalition is a resource for information about home fire sprinklers in the State of Washington.

To join the Washington Sprinkler Coalition, contact Chair Greg Rogers as noted below.

Chair

Greg Rogers, President WSAFM
Fire Prevention Manager
South Kitsap Fire-Rescue
1974 Fircrest Drive SE
Port Orchard, WA 98366
Phone (360) 876-8600, ext 251
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State Organizations:

Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
Washington Association of Building Officials
(WABO)
Washington State Association of Fire
Marshal's (WSAFM)
Washington Fire Chiefs (WSAFC)
Washington Fire Commissioners
Association
Washington Fire Public Educators
Washington State Council of Firefighters
Washington State Firefighters Association
Washington Surveying & Rating Bureau

Local Organizations:

Bates Technical College
Kitsap County Fire Chiefs Association
Maple Valley Fire and Life Safety
Marysville Fire District
Northwest Burn Foundation
Snohomish County Fire Chief's Association
Snohomish County Fire Prevention Assn
Vancouver Fire Department

National Organizations:

American Fire Sprinkler Association (AFSA)
Fire Sprinkler Advisory Board of Puget
Sound
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA)
Western Fire Chief's Association (WFCA)

Table 2. Rates of Unintentional Fire, Flame or Smoke Deaths per Million Population, by State, 1980-2004

State	1980-1984 Average	1985-1989 Average	1990-1994 Average	1995-1999 Average	2000-2004 Average
Alabama	38.9	37.8	36.4	26.4	24.1
Alaska	41.4	28.2	31.6	23.5	14.4
Arizona	13.3	12.0	11.2	8.1	7.9
Arkansas	36.6	34.3	24.8	22.8	23.7
California	13.7	10.6	8.4	7.0	5.8
Colorado	10.7	7.4	7.6	5.5	4.2
Connecticut	12.5	10.8	9.6	9.6	7.8
Delaware	25.7	17.9	13.9	10.9	9.9
Florida	18.3	15.8	13.5	8.7	8.0
Georgia	40.0	33.3	28.3	18.9	17.0
Hawaii	5.8	5.2	2.4	6.8	3.1
Idaho	16.0	11.4	10.9	9.0	5.8
Illinois	22.7	19.8	18.6	12.9	11.3
Indiana	24.0	19.5	17.1	14.6	14.4
Iowa	15.3	14.6	13.8	12.2	10.8
Kansas	22.1	23.4	18.1	14.0	14.6
Kentucky	28.2	26.2	23.1	18.5	17.6
Louisiana	36.2	30.0	27.4	20.9	21.8
Maine	26.4	25.1	16.3	12.0	9.1
Maryland	23.3	16.2	14.1	11.2	9.7
Massachusetts	20.9	14.0	11.3	9.0	8.2
Michigan	23.3	20.8	19.0	15.3	13.0
Minnesota	19.0	13.6	11.0	10.2	7.6
Mississippi	51.8	48.1	40.1	36.4	30.2
Missouri	26.2	23.1	21.0	17.0	16.7
Montana	19.4	13.8	13.9	12.1	7.7
Nebraska	16.4	12.8	10.6	9.5	9.1
Nevada	37.6	13.7	12.4	8.5	7.8
New Hampshire	15.0	16.5	8.6	6.2	8.0
New Jersey	22.9	18.1	13.1	9.3	7.8
New Mexico	16.8	17.1	13.1	9.9	9.9
New York	20.9	19.8	14.6	11.8	10.0
North Carolina	32.9	31.7	26.8	17.4	15.4
North Dakota	18.8	14.9	17.7	13.2	11.0
Ohio	20.1	17.8	16.1	11.6	11.1

NOTE: Death Certificate data in the national database were used to ensure consistency across the 50 states. The unintentional injury codes were used for consistency over time. This approach omits some fire deaths (e.g., vehicle). State authorities are the best sources for fire death statistics in their states.

Table 2. Rates of Unintentional Fire, Flame or Smoke Deaths per Million Population, by State, 1980-2004

State	2000-2004 Average	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Alabama	24.1	26.1	27.1	19.4	24.2	23.6
Alaska	14.4	19.1	22.2	10.9	9.2	10.7
Arizona	7.9	8.4	9.6	8.5	8.4	5.0
Arkansas	23.7	24.7	33.4	21.8	18.3	20.3
California	5.8	5.6	5.3	6.0	6.1	6.0
Colorado	4.2	4.2	4.7	4.0	4.4	3.5
Connecticut	7.8	6.2	7.9	8.4	7.5	8.8
Delaware	9.9	8.9	23.9	3.7	2.4	10.8
Florida	8.0	8.7	8.5	6.8	7.8	8.2
Georgia	17.0	16.1	16.7	17.9	16.7	17.4
Hawaii	3.1	2.5	3.3	1.6	3.2	4.8
Idaho	5.8	6.2	6.1	4.5	6.6	5.7
Illinois	11.3	12.4	12.9	10.9	10.6	9.7
Indiana	14.4	13.0	17.1	12.2	13.9	15.7
Iowa	10.8	15.0	9.2	7.5	11.2	11.2
Kansas	14.6	15.3	17.0	14.0	12.5	14.3
Kentucky	17.6	21.0	16.2	16.6	17.7	16.6
Louisiana	21.8	23.9	22.4	23.0	19.1	20.4
Maine	9.1	12.5	10.1	6.9	10.7	5.3
Maryland	9.7	8.7	11.0	8.5	8.9	11.5
Massachusetts	8.2	9.8	8.6	8.7	8.7	5.5
Michigan	13.0	14.3	13.0	12.4	13.4	12.1
Minnesota	7.6	6.3	8.4	10.1	7.5	5.5
Mississippi	30.2	29.9	27.6	38.4	25.7	29.6
Missouri	16.7	17.7	16.5	17.3	14.9	17.0
Montana	7.7	7.8	5.5	4.4	9.8	10.8
Nebraska	9.1	8.2	12.2	7.5	9.2	8.6
Nevada	7.8	10.0	7.2	7.8	8.0	6.4
New Hampshire	8.0	8.9	11.1	6.3	7.8	6.2
New Jersey	7.8	8.0	8.3	7.6	6.9	7.9
New Mexico	9.9	8.2	6.0	11.3	12.3	11.6
New York	10.0	10.2	9.9	10.0	10.7	9.4
North Carolina	15.4	16.5	14.6	15.8	15.0	15.3
North Dakota	11.0	9.3	9.4	15.8	7.9	12.6
Ohio	11.1	11.4	12.6	11.0	11.5	9.2

NOTE: Death Certificate data in the national database were used to ensure consistency across the 50 states. The unintentional injury codes were used for consistency over time. This approach omits some fire deaths (e.g., vehicle). State authorities are the best sources for fire death statistics in their states.

Table 2. Rates of Unintentional Fire, Flame or Smoke Deaths per Million Population, by State, 1980-2004 (Continued)

State	1980-1984 Average	1985-1989 Average	1990-1994 Average	1995-1999 Average	2000-2004 Average
Oklahoma	29.3	25.2	21.5	19.2	17.6
Oregon	17.2	13.7	13.6	10.0	9.6
Pennsylvania	23.7	21.9	19.6	16.0	13.5
Rhode Island	18.7	12.0	6.0	6.0	27.9
South Carolina	46.1	43.9	28.4	22.4	18.4
South Dakota	19.3	19.2	20.3	10.8	13.4
Tennessee	31.9	33.0	27.0	25.5	22.8
Texas	23.9	19.4	14.3	12.4	10.6
Utah	15.0	9.4	10.8	5.1	5.4
Vermont	35.0	22.3	15.1	14.7	11.7
Virginia	26.5	23.3	15.6	13.8	11.8
Washington	18.7	13.8	10.8	9.4	8.9
West Virginia	33.0	22.9	20.3	17.6	14.2
Wisconsin	16.9	16.7	13.9	11.0	8.9
Wyoming	10.6	13.9	7.3	6.1	4.4
All 50 states	23.0	19.8	16.3	12.8	11.4

Note: Many of the deadliest fires in this period are not included because they fell into one of the exclusion groups cited below. For example, airplane post-crash and in-flight fires are not included, nor is the New York social club fire of 1989 (possibly treated as homicide by fire), the Oklahoma City office building bombing, or the World Trade Center collapse (fire caused collapse, which was the proximate cause of death).

Source: National Center for Health Statistics mortality data sorted by International Classification of Diseases codes, as sorted and analyzed by U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (1980-1998) and National Safety Council (1999-2004). Deaths included are those coded E890-E899 (1980-1998) and X00-X09 (1999-2004). Figures do not include codes F63.1 (pathological fire-setting) and W39 (fireworks discharge), which would add less than 1% to the total each year. Figures do not include codes X76 and X97 (suicide or homicide by smoke, fire or flames), which would add about 9% to the total each year. These four codes are included in state-by-state analyses by the U.S. Fire Administrator. Figures do not include fire deaths in vehicles, which would add about 20% to the expanded total (with X76 and X97) each year. Also, state resident population figures are taken from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States*.

NOTE: Death Certificate data in the national database were used to ensure consistency across the 50 states. The unintentional injury codes were used for consistency over time. This approach omits some fire deaths (e.g., vehicle). State authorities are the best sources for fire death statistics in their states.

Table 2. Rates of Unintentional Fire, Flame or Smoke Deaths per Million Population, by State, 1980-2004 (Continued)

State	2000-2004 Average	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Oklahoma	17.6	13.9	17.0	18.1	19.6	19.3
Oregon	9.6	9.6	8.6	11.6	8.1	10.0
Pennsylvania	13.5	14.6	13.3	10.5	14.9	13.9
Rhode Island	27.9	15.3	8.5	14.0	97.6	3.7
South Carolina	18.4	22.7	16.7	14.6	20.3	17.9
South Dakota	13.4	7.9	13.2	14.5	13.1	18.2
Tennessee	22.8	23.2	21.4	18.5	28.2	22.7
Texas	10.6	11.9	10.2	11.3	10.5	9.3
Utah	5.4	4.0	4.8	6.0	6.0	5.9
Vermont	11.7	27.9	6.5	6.5	16.2	1.6
Virginia	11.8	13.6	10.7	9.2	10.8	14.7
Washington	8.9	10.3	11.2	9.7	5.7	7.9
West Virginia	14.2	17.7	14.4	10.0	12.7	16.0
Wisconsin	8.9	8.0	7.6	10.1	9.3	9.4
Wyoming	4.4	8.1	6.1	6.0	0.0	2.0
All 50 states	11.4	12.0	11.6	11.0	11.6	10.9

Note: Many of the deadliest fires in this period are not included because they fell into one of the exclusion groups cited below. For example, airplane post-crash and in-flight fires are not included, nor is the New York social club fire of 1989 (possibly treated as homicide by fire), the Oklahoma City office building bombing, or the World Trade Center collapse (fire caused collapse, which was the proximate cause of death).

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Jeff LaFlam

From: Rogers, Greg [GRogers@skfr.org]
Sent: Monday, September 14, 2009 8:03 AM
To: Todd Short; Jeff LaFlam
Subject: FW: Fire Death Comparison August 2009

FYI - WA fire data for this year.



From: Gannie, Melissa (WSP)
Sent: Friday, September 11, 2009 08:13
To: Matlick, Mike (WSP); Pimentel, Anjela (WSP); Perz, Paul (WSP)
Cc: Duffy, Chuck (WSP); Talley, Lance (WSP); LeMay, Brandon (WSP)
Subject: RE: Fire Death Comparison August 2009

Please find below a comparison on fire fatalities current as of September 11, 2009. I will provide this information on a monthly basis.

Update on Fire Fatalities

2009 Year to Date	38
2008 Same Time Period	27
Percent of Change	41% increase

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Melissa Gannie
Deputy State Fire Marshal
Office of the State Fire Marshal
360-596-3917

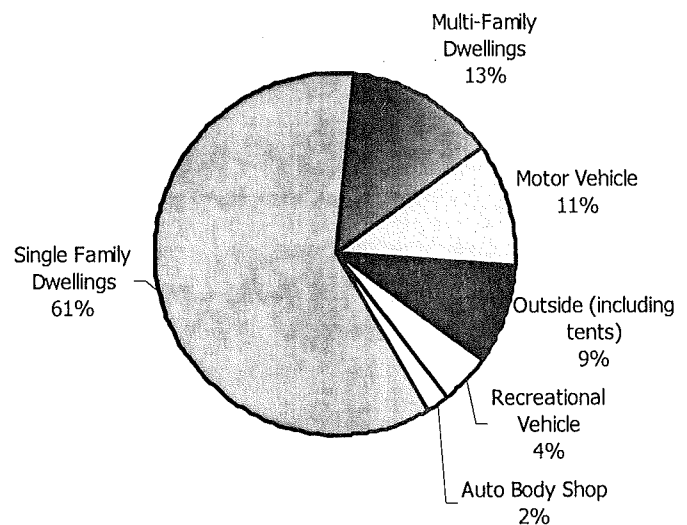
Places Fire Fatalities Occurred

Fatal fires most frequently occur in places where people live or sleep. In 2008, approximately 73% of the fire fatalities occurred in residential occupancies. Single-family dwellings alone accounted for 60% of the reported fire fatalities, including 8 deaths in mobile homes. Multi-family dwellings accounted for 13.3% of the deaths.

There were six fires in residential occupancies that claimed multiple lives in 2008. In all, 16 people died in the fires listed below:

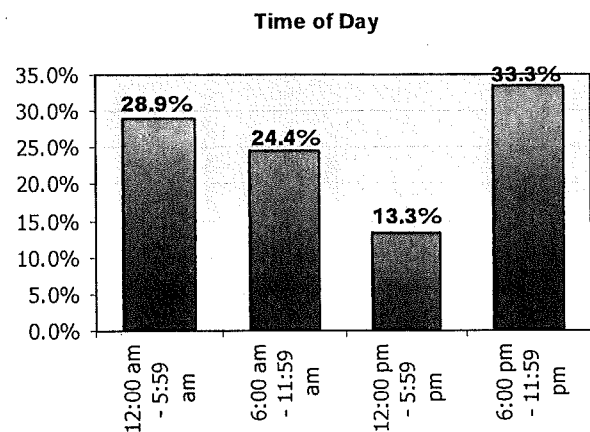
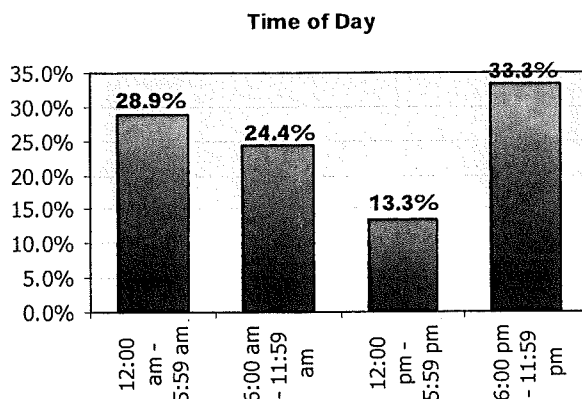
- June 29th - 3 people died in an intentionally set fire at an apartment complex.
- July 16th - 2 people died in a fire caused by cooking in a mobile home.
- October 1st - 4 people died in a mobile home fire; the fire cause was unknown.
- October 16th - 3 people died in a single-family dwelling; the fire cause was unknown.
- October 24th - 2 people died in a single-family dwelling; the fire cause is under investigation.
- November 21st - 2 people died in an electrical-related fire in a single-family dwelling.

Categories	Total	% of Total
Single-Family Dwellings	27	60.0%
Multi-Family Dwellings	6	13.3%
Motor Vehicle	5	11.1%
Outside (including tents)	4	8.9%
Recreational Vehicle	2	4.4%
Auto Body Shop	1	2.2%
Grand Total	45	100.0%



When Fire Fatalities Occurred

Deadly fires can strike any time and on any day of the week. In 2008, Sundays and Wednesdays were the days most fatal fires occurred. Most of the fires started between the hours of 6 p.m. and midnight.

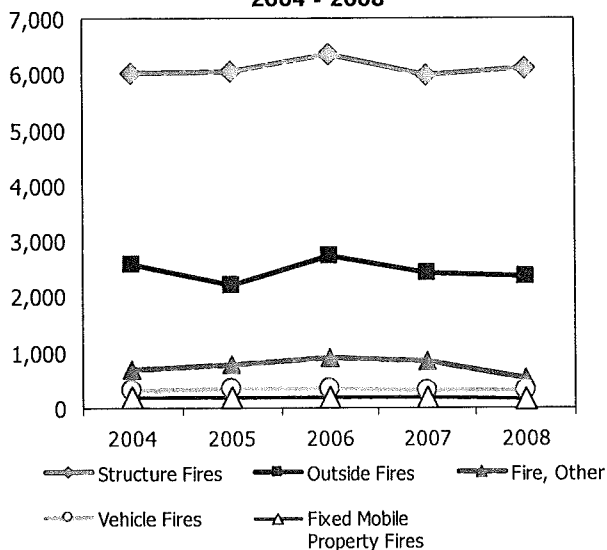


Fires at Residential Properties

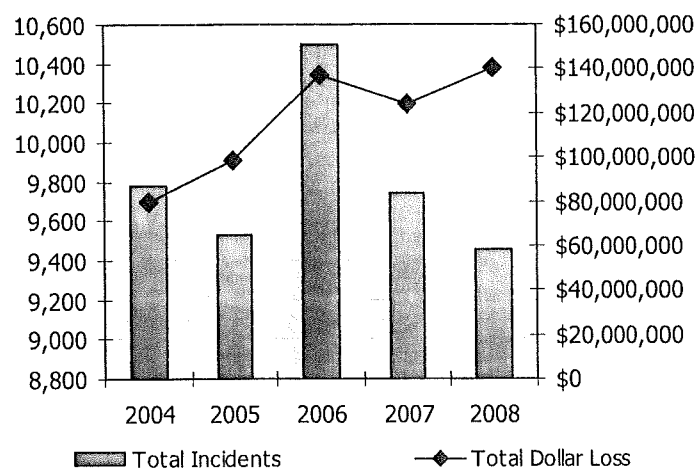
Fires at residential properties are a significant problem in terms of the impact on lives and property. Over the past five years, 73% of the fire fatalities in Washington State occurred in residential properties. Using NFIRS, residential properties include one- and two- family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, board and care, hotels/motels, college housing, barracks, and dormitories.



**Fire Type Categories at Residential Properties
2004 - 2008**



**Fires and Dollar Loss at Residential Properties
All Fires 2004 - 2008**



Residential Use and Dollar Loss	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	Grand Total
1- or 2-Family Dwellings	7,220	7,119	7,759	7,281	7,141	36,520
Dollar Loss	\$63,734,971	\$73,692,981	\$96,465,139	\$99,003,736	\$111,621,745	\$444,518,572
Multi-Family Dwellings	1,843	1,802	2,015	1,777	1,678	9,115
Dollar Loss	\$13,504,034	\$20,604,347	\$23,357,790	\$19,619,352	\$25,431,586	\$102,517,109
Other Residential Uses	712	609	721	688	640	3,370
Dollar Loss	\$2,749,871	\$3,838,851	\$16,933,651	\$4,922,677	\$3,317,511	\$31,762,561
Total Incidents	9,775	9,530	10,495	9,746	9,459	49,005
Total Dollar Loss	\$79,988,876	\$98,136,179	\$136,756,580	\$123,545,765	\$140,370,842	\$578,798,242

Fire Incident Type Category	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	5-Year Total	5-Year Total Property and Content Loss Reported
Structure Fires (Including confined fires)	6,019	6,031	6,337	5,977	6,100	30,464	\$557,926,032
Outside Fires (includes natural/cultivated vegetation, rubbish, & storage or equipment)	2,565	2,214	2,726	2,425	2,354	12,284	\$2,117,979
Fire Other	695	769	907	841	530	3,742	\$2,856,967
Vehicle Fires (Mobile Properties)	295	344	329	310	313	1,591	\$5,422,686
Fixed Mobile Property Fires	201	172	196	193	162	924	\$10,474,578
Grand Total	9,775	9,530	10,495	9,746	9,459	49,005	\$578,798,242

Dollar loss figures are based on estimates provided by fire service personnel only.

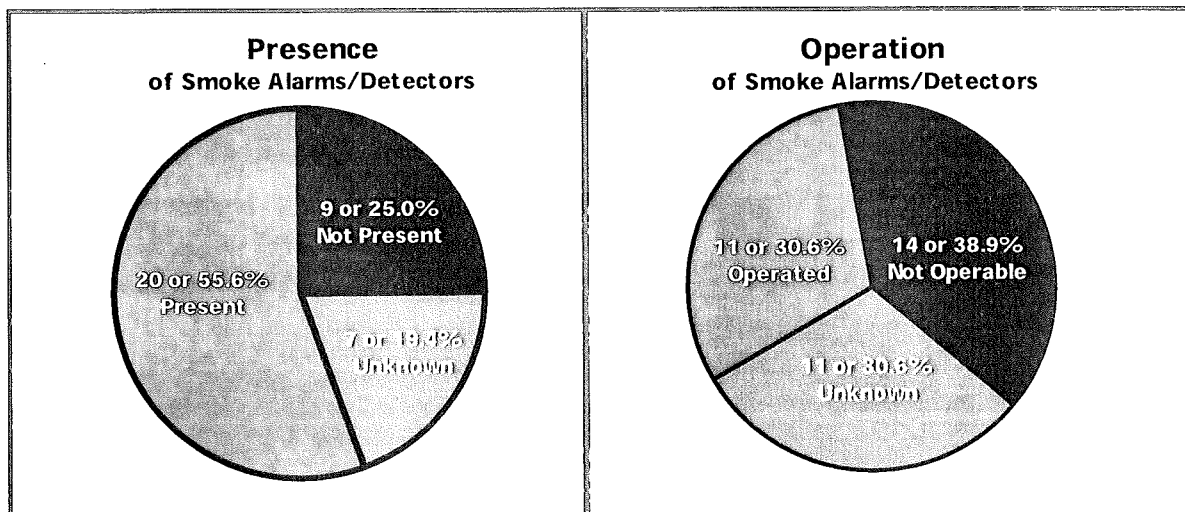
Fire Fatalities and Fire Protection Devices

Fire protection devices—such as smoke alarms and fire sprinklers—play a key role in reducing the loss of life in fires. Smoke alarms are designed to detect smoke and provide early notification to building occupants. Fire sprinklers provide critical fire suppression and occupant protection, particularly for impaired individuals.

The charts and information below illustrate the features of fire protection reported for 36 of the 45 fire fatalities that occurred in buildings or recreational vehicles during 2008. There were 9 fire fatalities that occurred in vehicles or outside that are not included in the analysis.

Findings for smoke alarms or detectors:

- Approximately 70% of the fire fatalities occurred where no operable smoke alarms or detectors were reported.
- Eleven fire fatalities occurred in areas where smoke alarms or detectors were present and operational. Human factors—such as the person was asleep, under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or had physical or mental impairment—may have contributed to the individual not escaping the fire.



Finding for fire sprinklers:

- One fire fatality occurred in a building that was equipped with fire sprinklers. The fire started in a chair where the victim was sitting. The fire sprinkler system activated and contained the fire.

National Fire Incident Reporting System

Incident Type: 111 building fire

Property Use: 419 One or Two Family Dwelling

Total Dollar Loss: Greater than or Equal \$50,000 or More

Year	\$50,000 or more		\$100,000 or more	
	# of Incidents	Total Dollar Loss	# of Incidents	Total Dollar Loss
2004	319	\$45,126,423	171	\$34,906,528
2005	340	\$53,006,501	171	\$41,552,001
2006	437	\$73,965,595	243	\$60,973,320
2007	435	\$72,677,884	254	\$60,301,637
2008	485	\$86,019,048	277	\$71,544,252
5 Year Total	2,016	\$330,795,451	1,116	\$269,277,738

*As reported by fire agencies in Washington State

The United States is the greatest country in the world. Americans take pride in having achieved a balance between personal independence and support of laws that help ensure safety and security. The U.S. is arguably the richest and most technologically advanced nation in history.

In spite of this we lag behind much of the world when it comes to fire safety. Even though the U.S. has experienced a significant reduction in fire deaths in the last 3 decades, according to the Geneva Association, an International Association for the Study of Insurance Economics, the fire death rate in the U.S. is twenty-first among the twenty-five industrialized nations studied. According to their study published in October 2008, nearly every European nation and Canada had a fire death rate lower than that reported by the United States.

While the U.S. is struggling to duplicate the fire safety results of other nations, many dedicated individuals across Washington State are also working to provide fire safe homes for its residents. A study published by the National Fire Protection Association in December 2008 revealed that the fire death rate in Washington is 15th as compared to other states. While this may be acceptable to some, a ranking of 15th among 50 states in a country that ranked 21st of 25 industrialized nations, is unacceptable to those of us that have dedicated our careers and our very lives to fire safety.

In 2008, there were 7,141 fires reported in one- and two-family dwellings in Washington State. These fires caused more than \$111 million in direct property losses. Of the 7,141 fires reported, just 485 fires caused over \$86 million in damage. That means that throughout 2008 in Washington State a house fire occurred every 18 hours that caused an average of more than \$177,000.00 in damage. While the direct property losses can be quantified, the indirect losses and the devastation to families that these fires caused are impossible to calculate. In addition to property damage, approximately 73% of fire deaths in Washington occurred in residential occupancies. Single-family dwellings alone accounted for 60% of the reported fire deaths. Smoke alarms are a valuable tool, yet more than 30% of fire deaths in Washington occurred in occupancies where the smoke alarm operated properly. Every citizen deserves to live in a home equipped with a cost-effective system that protects not only their possessions, but their very lives from the crippling ravages of fire.

I would like to share a story with you about an incident that I was closely involved with. While working as an inspector and investigator with the Redmond Fire Department back in 2002, a small group of houses were being built overlooking Lake Sammamish. Access for emergency vehicles was difficult so fire sprinklers were required to be installed in each house. I performed the plan reviews and inspections of the systems as they were installed. These custom homes sold for more than \$1 million each. Approximately six months after the houses were completed I was called out to investigate a fire at one of the homes. The fire started in the kitchen and involved a painting tarp and other supplies, including a gallon can of paint thinner, that had been spread out over a cooking island. One sprinkler head had activated and limited the fire damage to the tarp some surrounding materials. The residents were not at home and did not return home until that evening. They told me that they were going to paint the kitchen but realized that it was too hot that day and decided to leave for the day and return to paint in the evening. A knob on the stove had accidentally been left on and the tarp had ignited. The potential damage to the home and all of their possessions was tremendous. While this was an upsetting event, the owner was very thankful that the sprinkler system had saved their home and their valuable, and in many cases, irreplaceable possessions.

Every resident of Washington State should have the right to expect that the new home they purchase is a safe and secure place to raise a family and build a lifetime of memories.

SBCC testimony by Jeff LaFlam